

THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE AND THE BALBOA PARK STUDY

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Balboa Park Committee (BPC)?

The Balboa Park Committee (BPC) is a citizen's advisory group with members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. There are representatives from:

- Neighboring planning groups (North Park, Uptown, Golden Hill, Downtown),
- Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council
- Balboa Park Cultural Institutions
- Several members-at-large

The BPC serves in an advisory capacity to the Park and Recreation Board, Mayor, and City Council on policy issues relating to the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of Balboa Park.

2. What is the Balboa Park Study?

The Soul of San Diego: Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent in its Second Century is a study that was commissioned by the Legler Benbough Foundation, the San Diego Foundation and the Parker Foundation and prepared by the Trust for Public Land in Washington, DC. It was presented to the Mayor in January 2008.

The Study raises three questions:

1. Can the City of San Diego, acting alone, provide the necessary support for Balboa Park in the future?
2. Even if it can, should the City do so considering the regional nature of the park?
3. If the City decides to broaden park governance to provide additional support, what is the best alternative available?

Mayor Sanders and Councilmember Toni Atkins have referred the study and the questions that it raises to the BPC for public discussion and recommendations.

3. Are meetings open to the public?

Yes, all meetings are open to the public.

4. How will the Balboa Park Committee attempt to answer the questions raised in the study?

The BPC is gathering information from the community, experts in various fields of governance and information regarding the City of San Diego budget and finances with an emphasis on Balboa Park.

5. How can your ideas or concerns be included in the committee's work?

Public input is vital to the work of the committee. Meetings include time for public comment on any aspect of the discussion. The BPC will continue to gather data and to hear testimony into the fall of this year and intends to have a draft recommendation

available for public review in Fall 2008. There will be public hearings to gather input to the recommendation(s) and final report.

6. Is the park going to be sold or will a “For Profit Business” be brought in to run the park?

Balboa Park will NOT be sold or “given away”; Privatization or a “For Profit Business” is neither an option in the Study nor under consideration by the BPC.

7. Will Balboa Park remain a public park?

Yes, absolutely.

8. If the Balboa Park Committee recommends a change in governance for the park, will the City of San Diego continue to be responsible for the park?

Yes, under all governance models reviewed the City of San Diego would continue to be an essential partner. In addition, because any recommendation the BPC makes will be advisory only, there will be no change to governance at the conclusion of the Study review. The San Diego City Council will make all decisions regarding any change in governance of Balboa Park.

9. What will the Committee NOT be doing as part of the Balboa Park Study?

BPC discussions and recommendations will NOT address land use projects for the park nor will it make recommendations for future projects. The BPC will NOT provide a draft contract for a possible management partner.

10. Isn't the BPC Study discussion really about Park Institutions' desire to run the Park?

No, it is not. Park Institutions, their staff, trustees and members, along with all citizens of San Diego, are learning about present conditions throughout the Park and the governance possibilities outlined in the Balboa Park Study. They will respond to recommendations made in the BPC Report along with others who are concerned with the future of Balboa Park.

11. What will be the outcome of the process?

The BPC's Final Report will include answers to the three questions listed above and any potential recommendations and will be presented to the City of San Diego's Mayor and City Council. The Mayor and City Council will determine next steps regarding the BPC's Final Report and recommendations.

A list of upcoming meetings and Study related documents are available at www.balboapark.org.

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